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Claremont

for the

year ending

March 12, 1851

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING,

## IN CLAREMONT,

## March 11 and 12, 1851.

At a legal Town Meeting, duly notified and held at Claremont, in the county of Sullivan, on Tuesday the 11th day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, the following officers were chosen.

FOR MODERATOR.

George W. Blodgett.

TOWN CLERK.

Josiah Stevens.

SELECTMEN.

Albro Blodgett, William Rossiter, Daniel S. Bowker.

REPRESENTATIVES.

John S. Walker, John Tyler, Sumner Putnam.

TOWN TREASURER.

William Rossiter.

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

William M. Ladd, Nathaniel Tolles, Milon C. M'Clure.

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Hiram W. Hubbard.

COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL LANDS AND LIT. FUND.

Albro Blodgett, Thos. J. Harris, Ambrose Cossit.

SEALERS OF LEATHER.

Lewis Perry, George N. Farwell, B. Jarvis Sperry.

FENCE VIEWERS.

James Sperry, Danford Rice, J. E. Rowell.

CONSTABLES.

Geo. W. Blodgett, Alfred Burrill, Henry Roys, Erastus Clark.

AUDITORS.

Thos. J. Harris, Albert M. Billings, Horace Dean.

SURVEYORS OF LUMBER.

Henry Fitch, Leonard P. Fisher, Orlando Newton.

MEASURERS OF WOOD.

James P. Brewer, Geo. W. Blodgett, Lewis Perry, George R. Lathe, Daniel F. Maynard.

HOG-REEVES.

J. E. Rowell, Ambrose Cossit, Wm. O. C. Woodbury.

POUND KEEPER.

Phillemon Tolles.

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

The Selectmen.

HIGHWAY SURVEYORS.

To be appointed by the Selectmen.

*Voted*, To raise the sum required by law, for the support of Schools.

*Voted*, That the School money be divided as follows:—$30 to each district, the remainder according to the scholars.

*Voted*, That the interest of the Literary Fund be applied to the support of Schools.

*Voted*, To raise $500 for the legal expenditures of the town.

*Voted*, To raise $2000 for repairing highways and bridges—$500 in money and $1500 in labor.

*Voted*, To pay Engine-men $1,50 each, in addition to the sum required by law.

State Tax for the present year, $994,80. County Tax for the present year, $720,56.

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## APPOINTMENTS BY THE SELECTMEN.

Alvah Stevens, Collector of Taxes.

Geo. W. Blodgett, Chief Engineer.

*Assistant Engineers.*

Leonard P. Fisher, Aurelius Dickinson, Lewis W. Randall, Jonas Livingston, Lewis Perry, James P. Brewer, Lewis Durrant, Jonathan Miner.

VOTES FOR GOVERNOR.

| | |
|---|---|
| Thomas E. Sawyer, | 273 |
| Samuel Dinsmore, | 152 |
| John Atwood, | 91 |

COUNSELOR.

| | |
|---|---|
| John Prentiss, | 276 |
| George Huntington, | 151 |
| Alvah Smith, | 87 |

SENATOR.

| | |
|---|---|
| Benjamin F. Sawyer, | 276 |
| Daniel N. Adams, | 151 |
| Ebenezer Cole, | 86 |

TREASURER.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cha's M. Bingham, | 277 |
| Granville Gilmore, | 150 |
| Amasa Hall, | 86 |

REGISTER OF DEEDS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Calvin Wilcox, | 277 |
| John Town, | 151 |
| Naylor Starbird, | 86 |

ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

| | |
|---|---|
| March Chase, | 276 |
| Nathan White, | 276 |
| Danford Rice, | 270 |
| Oliver B. Buswell, | 151 |
| Edmund Walker, | 151 |
| Joseph Davis jr. | 151 |
| William Stocker, | 86 |
| Chase Noyes, | 85 |
| Ira Colby, | 85 |

REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Jonathan Kittredge, | 277 |
| Harry Hibbard, | 148 |
| John H. White, | 87 |

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# FINANCIAL REPORT.

The undersigned, Auditors of the town of Claremont, for the fiscal year ending March 10, 1851, having attended to the duties assigned them and found the accounts of the Selectmen, Treasurer and other town officers rightly cast and well vouched, would respectfully submit the following

## REPORT.

| | |
|---|---|
| Balance of Cash in the Treasury, March 7, 1850, | $ 680 26 |
| Balance of uncollected School Land rents, March 7, 1850, | 26 63 |

*Received into the Treasury, as follows:*

| | |
|---|---|
| For use of Town-house, | 28 00 |
| From the State, for bounties on crows, | 28 80 |
| From the State, for Literary Fund, | 131 61 |
| For grass in the new cemetery, | 6 00 |
| Of P. Tolles, for rent on land, | 2 50 |
| For Circus License, | 50 00 |
| From the County, on pauper account, | 193 54 |
| Of Mr. Osgood, for lumber, | 50 |
| For Caravan License, | 35 00 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Of Benjamin P. Walker, for wood, | 2 00 |
| Of the town of Sutton, for support of G. Abbot, | 28 86 |
| Of the State, for military service, | 375 00 |
| Of the County, on pauper account, | 293 04 |
| Of Nathaniel Tolles, discount on bill for medical services, | 2 50 |
| Of Alvah Stevens, on tax bill of 1850, | 5450 69 |
| Of Agent of the town farm, | 16 50 |
| Of H. W. Hubbard, for butter, &c. at town farm, | 19 68 |
| Of S. G. Jarvis, discount on bill for medical services, | 7 50 |
| From School Land Rents, | 176 00 |
| | $ 7554 61 |

## DISBURSEMENTS.

*Paid, as follows:—*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| T. J. Harris, for services as Auditor, 1849, | | 5 00 |
| Albro Blodgett, for services as Selectman, | | 104 25 |
| Albro Blodgett, for services as Overseer of the Poor, | | 10 68 |
| William Rossiter, as Selectman, | | 76 50 |
| William Rossiter, as Overseer of the Poor, | | 15 00 |
| Daniel S. Bowker, as Selectman, | | 78 50 |
| Daniel S. Bowker, as Overseer of the Poor, | | 3 00 |
| Josiah Stevens, for services as Town Clerk, | | 26 43 |
| Albro Blodgett, as Committee on School Lands, | | 5 00 |
| Wm. M. Ladd, as Super'ng School Committee, | 44 25 | |
| Nathaniel Tolles, as Super'ng School Committee, | 45 00 | |
| P. C. Freeman, as Super'ng School Committee, | 7 75 | |
| | | 97 00 |
| William Rossiter, as Town Treasurer, | | 20 00 |
| William Rossiter, for cash to engine men, Poor farm, &c. | | 70 04 |
| Wm. O. C. Woodbury, for repairing town clock, | | 4 00 |
| Jas. Barker, for services as Sexton, | 10 15 | |
| Alfred Burrill, for services as Sexton, | 37 65 | |
| | | 47 80 |
| John Kelley, for use of ropes, | | 16 00 |
| Jonathan Miner, for repairing engine, | | 2 75 |
| Bounties on crows to sundry persons, | | 28 80 |
| Henry Rugg, for oil &c. for engines, | | 5 00 |
| M. C. M'Clure, for examining Acworth Records, | | 2 00 |
| E. B. Alden, for iron work for bridges and fence, | | 1 98 |
| L. Severance, whitewashing new fence to the old cemetery, | | 8 25 |
| Geo. W. Blodgett, for hose to engine No. 1, | | 34 64 |
| Alfred Burrill, for erecting fence to old cemetery, | | 21 46 |
| L. & A. Cowles, for lumber for said fence, | | 15 96 |
| Sumner Putnam, for writing, | | 50 |
| John Doolittle, for damage to waggon, | | 4 00 |
| E. L. Goddard, for printing, &c. | | 15 96 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| L. & A. Cowles, for lumber, | | 18 75 |
| Geo. W. Blodgett, for cash paid postage, | | 50 |
| Sumner Putnam, for revising check list, &c. | | 3 75 |
| Rossiter & Putnam, for nails, glass, powder, &c. | | 18 58 |
| Albro Blodgett, expenses at Newport to pay soldiers, | | 80 |
| Wm. Rossiter, for paying engine men and soldiers, | | 4 00 |
| James Barker, for ringing bell, | 24 00 | |
| Alfred Burrill, for ringing bell, | 31 00 | |
| | | 55 00 |
| Alvah Stevens, by abatement of taxes, | | 268 44 |
| For building school-house in district No. 12, | 486 37 | |
| For repairing school-house in district No. 4, | 20 00 | |
| For use of schoool-room in district No. 17, | 25 00 | |
| | | 531 37 |
| On account of military service, | | 466 00 |
| On account of paupers, | | 887 61 |
| Engine men, | | 60 00 |
| For repairing highways and bridges, | | 700 36 |

*Paid for support of Public Schools, as follows:*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| District No. 1, | No. of Scholars, | 172, | $ 314 86 |
| 2, | " | 59, | 127 71 |
| 3, | " | 38, | 92 93 |
| 4, | " | 61, | 131 03 |
| 5, | " | 46, | 106 18 |
| 6, | " | 39, | 94 59 |
| 7, | " | 53, | 117 78 |
| 8, | " | 44, | 102 87 |
| 9, | " | 59, | 127 71 |
| 10, | " | 20, | 63 12 |
| 11, | " | 30, | 79 68 |
| 12, | " | 24, | 69 75 |
| 13, | " | 27, | 74 72 |
| 14, | " | 25, | 71 40 |
| 15, | " | 114, | 218 80 |
| 16, | " | | 30 00 |
| 17, | " | 251, | 445 70 |
| 18, | " | 58, | 126 06 |
| 19, | " | 27, | 74 72 |
| | | | 2469 62 |
| Deduct amount now due sundry districts, | | | 175 21 |
| | | | 2294 41 |
| | | | 6030 04 |
| Balance now in the Treasury, | | | 1524 57 |
| | | | $ 7554 61 |

In investigating the operations at the Town Farm for the last financial year, we arrive at the following condensed result, viz.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Amount of personal property, as per appraisal March, 1850, | | 1242 96 |
| Cash drawn from the Treasury, | | 887 61 |
| Interest on cost of the Farm, | | 228 00 |
| Due from the county, as per last year's report, | | 31 25 |
| | | $ 2389 82 |
| Amount of personal property, as per appraisal March 5, 1851, | 1384 54 | |
| Due from the County, | 20 00 | |
| Paid into the Treasury, | 525 44 | |
| Received from the Agent on the farm and paid into the Treasury, | 16 50 | |
| Received of H. W. Hubbard for sundries, and paid into the Treasury, | 19 68 | |
| Due on account, | 1 90 | |
| | | 1968 06 |
| The actual cost to the town, of supporting its paupers, has been | | 421 76 |

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**The present Assets and Liabilities of the Town are as follows:**

## ASSETS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Due from the State from Rail-road tax, say | 250 00 |
| Due from Alfred Burrill, being balance for use of Town-house, say | 12 00 |
| Due on Tax-bill of 1850, | 80 00 |
| Balance in the Treasury, | 1524 57 |
| | $ 1866 57 |

## LIABILITIES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Balances due sundry School Districts, | 175 21 |
| | $ 1691 36 |

The Town having appropriated the Literary Fund, now amounting to about $ 3500 00, to general purposes, is also liable to said fund for the annual interest thereon for purposes of public schooling.

THOS. J. HARRIS,
E. L. GODDARD,
GEO. W. BLODGETT,
} *Auditors.*

# REPORT

## OF THE SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The Superintending School Committee for the year ending March 11th, 1851, would respectfully beg leave to submit the following REPORT.

Being of the opinion that much depends on an efficient superintendence of schools, we have endeavored to make ourselves acquainted with the best systems of instruction, that we might be able to recommend such improvements, as in our judgments the wants of the schools seemed to demand. We have used our best efforts to impress upon the minds of prudential committees, parents, teachers and scholars, the vast importance of a well regulated and efficient common school; also the inestimable value of physical, intellectual and moral culture.

The first duty in our official capacity, was the examination of teachers for the summer schools. The time appointed for examination, was on the 4th, 11th, and 18th, of May. Most of the teachers presented themselves on the days appointed, all but one of whom we approbated. Others were afterwards examined. On the 9th, 23d, and 30th of November we had an examination of the teachers of the winter schools. Several were examined at different times afterwards.

### DISTRICT No. 1.

G. W. Blodgett, J. Livingston, G. N. Farwell, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $314,86. Number of scholars as enumerated by the selectmen, 172.—This school is divided into principal and primary. The principal department was taught during the summer term by Miss R. H. Dustin. Length of school fourteen weeks. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 39; average attendance, 25. Miss Dustin possesses a very happy faculty of disciplining a school, also of imparting instruction to her pupils: consequently most excellent improvement was made in the various branches of study pursued in her school.

The primary department was under the instruction of Miss S. J. Metcalf, for the space of fourteen weeks. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 56; average attendance, 42. The scholars under Miss Metcalf's care did well.

The principal department during the winter term was kept by Mr. De Witt C. Newman, who failed to govern his school in such a manner as good rules and regulations demand: although in other respects he was a respectable teacher. Mr. Newman excels as a teacher of mathematics: his classes in this branch of study appeared well. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 58; average attendance 44. This school requires one of the most successful disciplinarians that can be obtained.

The winter term of sixteen weeks, in the primary department, was under the charge of Miss L. D. Ladd, who fully sustained her previous reputation as an excellent teacher. As far as we have been able to ascertain, she has given universal satisfaction to her employers, and was much beloved by her pupils. Whole number of scholars, 57; average attendance, 40.

### DISTRICT No. 2.

T. W. Alden, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $127,71. Number of scholars as enumerated by the selectmen, 59.—The school during the summer, in this district, was taught by Miss Sophronia N. Pierce. Length of school 13 weeks. Whole number of scholars attending school two weeks, 41; males 18, females 21; average attendance 30. The appearance of this school was quite satisfactory. Miss Pierce labored hard in the discharge of her arduous duties, and manifested a sincere disposition to benefit her pupils to the extent of her ability. We consider her one of our best teachers.

The winter term was taught by Messrs. A. Hunt and A. D. Howard. Length of school 13 weeks. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 44; females 22, males 22; average attendance 33. Mr. Hunt had charge of the school 10 weeks. At our first visit we were not pleased with the school, but a reform was promised. At our second visit the appearance was discreditable to teacher and scholars. The house was dirty, the floor perfectly covered with whittlings, the scholars noisy, idle and disrespectful, whispering was practised to an unlimited extent, the recitations dull and imperfect. In short there was very little of that decorum, true spirit and enthusiasm which must characterize a good school. The remainder of the term the school was under the direction of Mr. Howard. Its appearance had improved, the relation between teacher and pupil was much better, and a good degree of interest was manifested by most of the scholars.

## DISTRICT No. 3.

S. Cowles, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $92,93. Number of scholars as enumerated by the selectmen, 38.—The school in this district was taught in the summer by Miss BETTY F. POWERS. She has had charge of this school one term before. This shows that she has had the confidence of the district; and your committee believe that she has labored with success. Length of school 16 weeks. Whole number of scholars 26; average attendance 18.

The winter school taught by Mr. WM. G. WYMAN, was of a high order. A deep interest seemed to pervade the minds of the parents, teacher and pupils, relative to the cause of common school education, which never fails to ensure a first rate school. Length of school 12 weeks. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 28; average attendance 24.

## DISTRICT No. 4.

S. R. Grannis, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $131,03. Number of scholars enumerated by the selectmen, 61.—The summer term of this school was under the direction of Miss EMELINE DUSTIN, who had charge of it the summer previous. The appearance of this school was respectable. There was, however, a lack of close application in the scholars, and enthusiasm in the teacher. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 34; females 10, males 24; average attendance, 28.

The winter term has been under the charge of Mr. WM. BALLOCH, an experienced teacher. Number of scholars 62; females 22, males 40; average attendance, 50. This school was well managed and the relation between teacher and pupils was good. The appearance of the classes examined was satisfactory. The examinations in reading and arithmetic were worthy of commendation.

## DISTRICT No. 5.

William Ellis, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $106,18. Number of scholars enumerated by the selectmen, 46.—This school was instructed by Miss ANN HASKELL, during a term of sixteen weeks in the summer. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 40; females 21, males 19; average attendance, 33. Miss Haskell seemed to enter into the spirit of her business, and to discharge her duties with fidelity and success. The examination of this school gave evidence of skill and ability in the teacher, and close application in the pupils.

The winter term was taught by Mr. JOHN MITCHELL. Length of school 10 weeks. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 47; females 17, males 30; average attendance, 34. This was a well conducted school. The exercises at the examination were creditable to the fidelity of the teacher and the industry of the scholars.

## DISTRICT No. 6.

H. Putnam prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $94,59. Number of scholars as enumerated by the selectmen, 39.—Miss JANE LABAREE, teacher. The appearance of this school was very creditable both in respect to teacher and pupils. The classes gave good evidence of being well instructed. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 18; average attendance 15. Number between 4 and 14 not attending anywhere, 2.

The winter school was instructed by Mr. DANIEL HOWARD. This school made fair progress in the branches of instruction pursued. Length of school 11 weeks. Number of scholars 35; average attendance, 29. Number of scholars not attending anywhere, 3.

## DISTRICT No. 7.

John Clark, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $117,78. Number of scholars as enumerated by the selectmen, 53. The summer school was successfully taught by Miss H. M. HANDERSON, a young teacher of much promise. The appearance of this school gave evidence of a perfect harmony of feeling and interest existing between teacher and scholars, which never fails to produce much good. Length of school 13 weeks. Number of scholars attending two weeks, 30; average attendance 20.

The winter school under the instruction of Mr. I. N. BARNES, we can speak of in the highest terms of commendation. Good order was maintained, and great skill and ability were exhibited on the part of the teacher in the management of this school. Several citizens were present during an excellent examination of nearly three hours; and manifested a lively interest in the prosperity of the school. Great credit is due not only to the instructor and his pupils, but also to the inhabitants of this district, for their zeal in behalf of the cause of education. Length of school 14 weeks. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 35; average attendance, 30.

## DISTRICT No. 8.

H. Hubbard 2d, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $102,87. Number of scholars enumerated by the selectmen, 44.—The summer term was taught by Miss SARAH D. F. JONES. Length of school 18 weeks. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 30; females 19, males 12; average attendance, 22. The services of Miss Jones were well appreciated and good improvement was made in school.

The winter term was kept by Mr. J. E. AINSWORTH. Length of school 13 weeks. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 21; average attendance, 16. Mr. Ainsworth succeeded well in this school. There was a laudable zeal and improvement manifested among his pupils.

## DISTRICT No. 9.

Jonathan Densmore, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $127,51. Number of scholars enumerated by the selectmen, 59.—Summer teacher Miss L. D. LADD. She has taught this school one term previous, and was unanimously selected as teacher of the summer school in this district, at their annual meeting, which is a higher encomium than any thing which we might say in her behalf. A large number of the citizens were present at our last visit towards the close of the school, by whom many appropriate remarks were made relative to the cause of education. Whole number of scholars attending school two weeks, 32; females 25, males 7; average attendance, 24.

The winter term was taught by Miss R. H. DUSTIN. Length of school 16 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 50; average attendance 39. The parents and scholars in this district owe much to their teacher for her unwearied exertions to promote the interests of her pupils. The recitations at the final examination were good. We can hardly conceive how they could be otherwise with a teacher, like Miss Dustin, possessing a mind so highly cultivated, and with her superior knowledge of school discipline. A teacher with less firmness and experience would hardly have overcome the obstacles which she had to encounter.

## DISTRICT No. 10.

Arnold Farr, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $63,12. Number of scholars as enumerated by the selectmen, 20.—Miss MARTHA J. PROCTOR, was employed to instruct this school the summer term, but laboring with indifferent success for two months and failing to satisfy her employers, she took an informal leave. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 22; females 8, males 14; average attendance, 17.

The winter term was taught by Miss L. J. HARLOW. Length of school 12 weeks. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 21; females 7, males 14; average attendance 16. At our first visit this school appeared remarkably well; subsequently some of the large scholars becoming restive, disturbed the harmony of the school and discouraged the teacher. Had Miss Harlow received that encouragement and support which she merited, and which duty and interest should have prompted the citizens to give, much more improvement would have been realized. The school was however a fair one.

## DISTRICT No. 11.

D. F. Tutherly, W. Case and E. Fiske, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $79,68. Number of scholars as enumerated by the selectmen, 30. —The summer term of this school was taught by Miss S. C. ROSSITER. Length of school 12 weeks. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 23; females 13, males 10; average attendance, 22. This school had been under the instruction of the same teacher the previous summer and winter. The deportment of the scholars was correct and respectful, and their improvement praiseworthy.

The services of Miss ROSSITER were engaged for the winter term. She labored with zeal and fidelity for 6 weeks, when, becoming disgusted with the conduct of some of the large boys, she left the school. The remainder of the term, amounting to 6 weeks, was taught by Miss MARTHA J. PROCTOR. There was too much noise and whispering for the school to appear to the best advantage. A portion of the school evinced a good degree of improvement. Whole number of scholars attending school two weeks, 30; females 13, males 17; average attendance, 25.

## DISTRICT No. 12.

J. E. Rowell, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $69,75. Number of scholars as enumerated by the selectmen, 24.—The summer term was taught by Miss SOPHRONIA CHAPIN. There was a want of spirit and activity in this teacher, necessary to gain the attention and interest of her pupils. Length of school 12 weeks. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 12; average attendance, 8. Number not attending anywhere between four and fourteen, 3.

The winter school instructed by Miss CLARA FREEMAN, presented a very different aspect. This is one of the smallest schools in town, but the teacher succeeded admirably in awakening an interest in her pupils. She was not only well qualified, but took a deep interest in the business of teaching. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 18; average attendance, 16. Length of public school 12 weeks. After which a subscription school was kept by the same teacher, evincing that she was highly esteemed by her employers.

## DISTRICT No. 13.

Austin Perry, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $74,72. Number of scholars as enumerated by the selectmen, 27.—Miss S. P. GATES has taught the summer term of this school for three successive seasons, a fact showing

conclusively that she is a meritorious teacher. Her classes always appear well. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 22; females 14, males 8; average attendance, 19.

The winter school was admirably conducted by Miss FANNY E. MARSH. Length of school 12 weeks. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 17; females 9, males 8; average attendance, 15. Nothing has occurred in this school to disturb its harmony, or mar its excellence. We listened with pleasure to some very good specimens of declamation, from several of the large boys, at our last visit to this school.

## DISTRICT No. 14.

J. Emerson, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $71,40. Number of scholars as enumerated by the selectmen, 25.—The services of Miss ELIZABETH DEMING were obtained for the summer term; a teacher deserving great merit for the good order, systematic method of instruction, and improvement which appertained to her school. Length of school 12 weeks. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 25; average attendance, 20.

The winter term was taught by Messrs. P. W. SMITH, and S. D. CHAPIN. Mr. Smith kept the school for six weeks, became dissatisfied and left. The remainder of the term was taught by Mr. S. D. Chapin, for the space of five weeks. Mr. Chapin expressed himself highly pleased with the school. The management of the school while your committee was present, under the instruction of both teachers, was good. Mr. Chapin, however, possesses a much greater faculty of gaining the affections of his pupils than was possessed by Mr. Smith. A fair improvement was made in this school considering the circumstances attending it. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 24; average attendance, 20. Miss E. S. FULLERTON taught a subscription school for a term of eight weeks in this district during the fall, which was very highly spoken of by her employers.

## District No. 15.

George Wallingford, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $218,80. Number of scholars as enumerated by the selectmen, 114.—Miss E. A. DEMING kept this school in the summer for a term of 12 weeks. A very good teacher, but owing to the large number of scholars, the miserable condition of the school-house, and a lack of interest on the part of the district, not so much improvement was made as should have been. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 70; average attendance, 58.

Miss FANNY M. CLARK taught the winter school for a term of 16 weeks. Under common circumstances we believe Miss Clark would be a very successful teacher. She has had many obstacles to encounter of no ordinary character. Some of her pupils have made good improvement, while others, unless they change their course, will remain in ignorance and reap their reward in ignominy. The wants of this district demand one of our most experienced and efficient male teachers. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 39; average attendance, 28. Miss S. P. GATES had the charge of the school for a term of 8 weeks in the fall; also the small scholars for a term of 17 weeks in the winter. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 40; average attendance, 30. Miss Gates' success, as heretofore, was good.

## District No. 16.

Amount of money apportioned to this district. $30. No scholars enumerated by the selectmen. No prudential committee. No school.

## DISTRICT No. 17.

John Hendee, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $445,70. Number of scholars, as enumerated by the selectmen, 251.—This school, during the summer term, was divided into primary and principal. Length of school in each department, 16 weeks. The primary school was under the charge of Miss FANNY MARSH, who manifested a good degree of patience and perseverance in the discharge of her arduous duties; her pupils made good proficiency. Whole number of scholars attending school two weeks, 55; females 25, males 30; average attendance, 40. The principal school was taught by Miss E. L. PUTNAM. Some of the largest scholars manifested a disposition to take the government of the school into their own hands. We were called upon in three instances to settle conflicting claims, and place the authority where it legally belonged; the offenders acknowledged their transgressions, asked forgiveness of the teacher, promised well for the future, and were restored to favor. A little more tact in government will make Miss Putnam a very acceptable teacher. The different classes appeared to have made good improvement. Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 47; females 25, males 22; average attendance, 30.

Three teachers were employed during the winter term: Misses E. C. DEMING, E. S. FULLERTON, and Mr. J. D. PIERCE. The schools were divided into two primary and one principal. Whole number of scholars under the charge of Miss Deming, 49; average attendance, 40; length of school 16 weeks. Miss Deming was a faithful teacher, beloved by her pupils, and profitable to her employers. The other primary school consisted of 45 scholars who attended school two weeks; average attendance, 35; length of school, 16 weeks. Miss Fullerton labored incessantly for the good of her pupils, but owing to the entire unfitness of the school-room, (the worst we ever saw occupied for the purpose,) not so much benefit has been derived from the school as would have otherwise been the case.

With a good school-room, she is one of our most successful teachers. Mr. Pierce was teacher in the principal department; whole number of scholars attending two weeks, 57; average attendance, 40; length of school, 15 weeks. This was a model school; the order was excellent, the discipline mild, firm, and decisive; the deportment of the scholars correct and respectful; the method of instruction analytical and practical; a time allotted to each exercise, and each attended to in its appropriate time. The general tone of the school indicated that the relation between teacher and pupils was of the most gratifying character, and that the moral and intellectual improvement was, as it ever will be under similar circumstances, worthy of all praise.

## DISTRICT No. 18.

Frederic Clement, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $ 126,06. Number of scholars as enumerated by the selectmen, 58.—Summer school kept by Miss E. S. Fullerton. This teacher succeeded, as heretofore, in keeping a good school and in giving excellent satisfaction to her employers. Length of school, 4 months; number of scholars attending school two weeks, 31; average attendance, 27.

The winter term was instructed by Mr. E. A. Charlton. The first few weeks of this school were much injured by the conduct of a large scholar, who seemed to be disposed to make disturbance. On application to the superintending school committee, his case was investigated, and the evidence was such that we were under the painful necessity of expelling him from school: after which the school did very well. The final examination reflected a good degree of credit upon both teacher and pupils. Length of school, 12 weeks; number of scholars attending school two weeks, 39; average attendance, 28.

## DISTRICT No. 19.

Samuel Carlton, prudential committee. Amount of money apportioned to this district, $ 74,72. Number of scholars as enumerated by the selectmen, 27.—The summer term was taught by Miss Mary T. Webster. Length of school, 10 weeks; number of scholars attending school two weeks, 11; females 6, males 5; average attendance, 9. It is believed that Miss Webster gave general satisfaction to her employers.

The winter term was taught by Mr. E. A. Thomas. Length of school, 12 weeks.—Number of scholars attending school two weeks, 21; females 9, males 12; average attendance, 14. This school had made great improvement; the instructions were correct, thorough and practical, as evinced by the recitations of the different classes. With a little more energy in discipline Mr. Thomas will rank with our very best teachers.

## REMARKS.

The teachers for the past year have been better qualified than in previous years, and the schools, as a whole, have been of a higher order. While much has been done in many of our schools to promote their highest interest, in others very little effort seems to have been made. In some of our districts, not a single visit has been made, either by the citizens or by the prudential committee. These things ought not so to be. Parents and committees should feel that time spent in the school-room is not mis-spent. In this way they may learn whether their children are doing well or ill. In this way they may learn the necessity of such suggestions and improvements as the town committee may from time to time urge upon their consideration; be led to cooperate and sympathize with the teacher, and assist in every laudable undertaking to benefit the school. Much depends upon the course which parents and prudential committees take in this matter: indifference tends only to chill the zeal of scholars and teachers—both need and have a right to expect your sympathy and aid. In a very few districts there has been a species of fault-finding among some of its inhabitants, the tendency of which has been very injurious, and justly merits the disapprobation of every honorable and high-minded man. A large proportion of the prudential committees have seemed to do all in their power to aid and assist us in the performance of our duties and for the benefit of the schools, while others seemed to have forgotten many of the important duties appertaining to their office.

## School Discipline.

Your committee are fully satisfied that the principal fault in our schools during the past year, has been a want of order and efficient government. Confusion has arisen from unnecessary noise with the feet while moving across the floor, or while in the seats, and interrupting the teacher during recitations; and in some few schools an incessant whispering. Scholars should be taught the impropriety of such clownish and ungraceful movements, and measures taken to suppress them as far as possible. Whispering should be exterminated, root and branch; it is an evil of evils, and should not be tolerated at all;—we are satisfied that in whatever way communications are made between scholars during session time, they are unfavorable to good order and the best interests of the school, and that all the advantage or convenience claimed for them in emergencies is vastly outweighed by the interruption they occasion, and by their direct tendency to produce other kinds of disorder. Our attention has been called to another fault which has caused us painful feelings, and that is, the disrespectful answers made to teachers. It is not difficult for a person, acquainted with human nature, to select scholars who are under wholesome parental authority at home. If a teacher is treated impolitely by a scholar, that teacher is

not the first person whose ears have been saluted with improper language and tones which should have subjected the child to severe punishment. The parents are accountable for this evil. We believe the chief embarrassments of teachers arise from the misconduct of a few individuals whose unenviable or vicious dispositions have never been properly restrained. The teacher should be mild, energetic and firm in his discipline; strict order should be maintained, and the milder the method of securing it the better; but by no means fail of having it, though at the expense of some smarting among the disorderly and rebelious. Parents should cooperate with teachers in the government of schools. It should be considered that no teacher is perfect, however much experience he may have had, and if a child should go home to his parents with a complaint of unjustifiable punishment, and they should uphold him in his conduct and suffer him to have his own way, either to leave the school or continue in his course of rebelion, nothing could act more disastrously both on the child and on the government and prosperity of the school. A few instances of this kind, and your teacher is sacrificed and your district sustains a loss for years to come. A master Giles might awe them into submission, but few teachers could go on successfully against such influences. Then let parents and guardians be careful never to condemn a teacher simply on the testimony of a child. If a teacher is supposed to be unfaithful in the discharge of his duties, or unjust and cruel in his government, it is the duty of the parent to make the necessary investigations, and instead of pouring out torrents of abuse in the presence of his child, let him seek a friendly interview with the teacher and learn the true state of the case. In this way a large share of the difficulties will be adjusted, the child kept in the path of duty and obedience, the teacher encouraged, and wholesome laws maintained in school.

## School-Houses.

There has been a new school-house erected within the past year in District No. 12, both beautiful and convenient, which reflects great credit upon its inhabitants. Its internal arrangement is like the house in District No. 1. The school-houses in Districts No. 2, 3, 6, 10, 15 and 17 are excellent specimens of departed usefulness—miserable tenements even for the brute creation; with rickety desks and seats, ventilators in abundance made by the hand of time, and in general appearance far inferior to any building in their vicinity. Near them may be seen the painted palace with its Venician blinds, its carpeted and papered rooms ornamented with costly chairs, and adorned with the sofa and the piano forte, or the equally furnished and adorned farm house, the pleasant abodes of abundance and luxury; while the germ of immortal thought is permitted to be cultivated in a place fitted only for the residence of the bat and the owl. Other school houses in town need repairing. It is sincerely hoped that a matter of so great importance as that of erecting and keeping in repair these abodes of our youth will be neglected no longer.

## Moral Culture.

This is a subject of infinite moment, one that should awaken a deep and thrilling interest in every intelligent and reflecting mind. For as the soul is of more value than the body, the jewel of more value than the casket, just so much is the moral training of our country's beloved children and youth of greater importance than their physical and intellectual. The difference of moral character in manhood may usually be traced to influences exerted on the mind in early life. The reason is this, the impressions made upon the plastic minds of children are rarely if ever eradicated from memory's tablet. Taking this thought into consideration, and the fact that every allurement is presented in glowing colors before our youth, to draw them astray from the path of virtue, temperance and morality, who so blind as not to discover the absolute necessity of surrounding them with an atmosphere of high-toned morality. The daily reading of the Scriptures, the introduction of Wayland's Abridgement of Moral Science, or the Manual of Morals, and the proper teaching of the same, we believe would have a great tendency to refine and adorn the social character of the young, and would furnish a sure pledge of their usefulness and happiness. In conclusion, we would say, it is hoped that an increased interest upon the subject of education will be awakened among us. Our own happiness and well-being demand it; the present and future welfare of the loved ones of our peculiar charge and care demand it; the preservation of that noble fabric erected by our forefathers with so much treasure and toil, and the perpetuity of our free institutions to posterity, demand it.

W. M. LADD,
P. C. FREEMAN,
N. TOLLES,
} Superintending School Committee.

POWER-PRESS OFFICE.....CLAREMONT.